

February 6, 2011

Transportation Committee
Office of Legislative Management
300 Capital Avenue, Room 5100
Hartford, CT 06106

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in opposition of SB 821, "AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANUFACTURER'S NUMBER ON A MOTORCYCLE TO BE THE SAME AS THE NUMBER ON THE TAILPIPE"; and SB 826, "AN ACT PROHIBITING ISSUANCE OF SAFETY INSPECTION STICKERS OR REGISTRATION PLATES FOR CERTAIN MOTORCYCLES.

Although the State of Connecticut has standards and procedures for measuring decibel levels, it does not have the right equipment to carry out such a task. Presently, decibel levels are measured inside a DMV Inspection garage. What the state does not consider is that a decibel meter does not know the difference between sound coming from the source and sound being reflected back to the source by objects, such as walls, buildings, etc. To prove my point, turn a radio on outside, and notice how the volume appears to increase as you move the radio inside a garage, shed, or other enclosed structure. You will hear a noticeable increase to the volume.

As it stands right now, most local and state police are also not equipped to accurately measure the decibel level of any motorcycle and make a correct judgment as to whether or not the state decibel level laws have been violated or not. In most cases, a motorcycle is pulled over and issued an infraction costing \$225.00 for Improper Mufflers (14-80(b)). There is no scientific method to determine if the decibel levels have been exceeded. The motorcycle rider is basically told to take it up in court.

Presently, there are statutes in effect that already address these very same issues.

They are:

14-80(a) Each motor vehicle and the devices on such vehicle shall be operated, equipped, constructed and adjusted to prevent unnecessary or unusual noise.

14-80(b) Each motor vehicle operated by an internal combustion engine shall be equipped, except as hereinafter provided, with a muffler or mufflers designed to prevent excessive, unusual or unnecessary exhaust noise. The muffler or mufflers shall be maintained by the owner in good working order and shall be in use whenever the motor vehicle is operated. No person, including a motor vehicle dealer or repairer or a motorcycle dealer, shall install, and no person shall use, on a motor vehicle, a muffler or mufflers lacking interior baffle plates or other effective muffling devices, a gutted muffler, a muffler cutout or a straight exhaust except when the motor vehicle is operated in a race, contest or demonstration of speed or skill as a public exhibition pursuant to subsection (a) of section 14-164a, or any mechanical device which will amplify the noise emitted by the vehicle. No person, including a motor vehicle dealer or repairer or a motorcycle dealer, shall remove all or part of any muffler on a motor vehicle except to repair or replace

the muffler or part for the more effective prevention of noise. No person shall use on the exhaust system or tail pipe of a motor vehicle any extension or device which will cause excessive or unusual noise.

14-80a Maximum noise levels. (a) No person shall operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles, nor shall the owner of any vehicle allow the vehicle to be operated, at any time or under any condition of grade, surface, speed, load, acceleration, deceleration or weather condition in such a manner as to exceed the decibel levels established under subsection (c) of this section. This subsection applies to the total noise generated by a vehicle and shall not be construed as limiting or precluding the enforcement of any other motor vehicle noise provisions of this title.

(b) No person shall sell or offer for sale a new vehicle which produces a maximum decibel level which exceeds the decibel levels established under subsection (c) of this section.

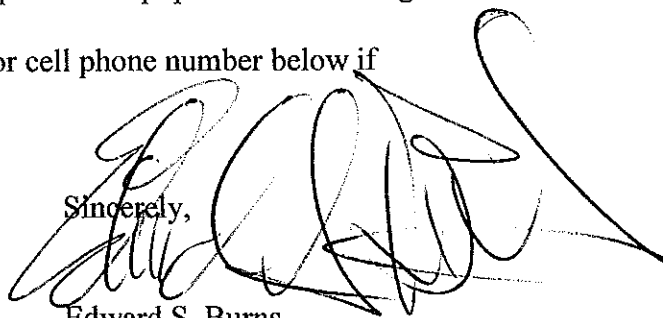
(c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, with the advice of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 establishing the maximum decibel levels permissible for motor vehicles, which shall not exceed the maximum decibel levels established for motor vehicles by federal law or regulation. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish the procedure for checking maximum decibel levels. The decibel level shall be measured fifty feet from the centerline of the vehicle. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may provide for measuring at distances closer than fifty feet from the centerline of the vehicle. In such a case, the measuring devices shall be calibrated to provide for measurements equivalent to the noise limit established by this section measured at fifty feet.

(d) Violation of the provisions of this section shall be an infraction.

Considering these laws, it is my opinion that the State of Connecticut should, instead of making new laws, concentrate their efforts on the laws at hand. If SB 821 & SB 826 are passed, new equipment will have to be purchased, and training will have to be done in order to follow their intent. One reason that the state has not had success with this problem is that the municipalities were not required to purchase equipment and training in order to follow the true intent of the above laws.

I can be reached at the mailing address, email, or cell phone number below if there are any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,



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